

OCEAN SPRINGS RECORD

B5

s, October 29, 1910, p. 1)

April 1914, at Mobile, ama Theo Bechtel was en as president of the Gulf t Nurserymen's ciation. (*The Ocean gs News*, April 25, 1914,

January 1917, Governor dore Bilbo and son came e Bechtel nurseries and rds on Holcomb eward to consult with Mr. tel about pecan stock for farm at Poplarville, issippi. Bilbo was ssed with the quality of tel's plants and acquired g pecan trees for his Pearl , County plantation. (*The Herald*, January 1917, p.

August 1930, Theo el was chosen as president e local affiliate of the nal Pecan Marketing ciation. Gulfport was quarters for the group, e membership resided and d in Louisiana, ssippi, and Alabama. (*The Herald*, August 16, 1930,

Ames Cottage

sica White Bechtel owned nes Cottage at present day lberville Drive, the resi- of local artist, Roy B. I III. It was constructed in 910, by the firm of Burr adford for Miss Eliza (1845-1917). Burr & ord was composed of Burr (1875-1916) and rick S. Bradford (1878- . In September 1936, Bechtel Jr. conveyed this rty to I.F. Pritchard. It has n the Logan family since 966. (*The Ocean Springs July 4, 1910* and JXCO, and Deed Bk. 69, pp. 308-

Demise

the time of his demise on

and Church Street while watch- ing the Bechtel conflagration. Mrs. Jessica W. Bechtel was rescued from the second story by using a ladder provided by her son, Theo Bechtel Jr. A boarder, Mrs. Gutierrez, also escaped injury. The edifice was uninsured and declared a total loss. The Bechtels had valuable antiques along with their personal possessions destroyed in the blaze, which was estimated to have caused more than \$5000 in damage. (*The Daily Herald*, January 14, 1939, p. 1)

In August 1941, Theo Bechtel, Jr. and his mother, Jessica, sold their Porter Avenue property to Oscar E. Heffner (1893-1988), a native of Chesapeake, Ohio, and his wife Ruth H. Brewster Heffner (1894-1972), originally from Howell County, Missouri. The Bechtels had moved to their Holcomb Boulevard property after the 1939 fire, which severely damaged their Porter Avenue residence. It was here on the former site of "Hollywood" that in 1941, the Heffners built the present day Dale Cottages on Porter. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 259, p. 366)

Theodore Bechtel Jr.

Theodore "Ted" Bechtel Jr. (b. 1908) was born at Ocean Springs on October 10, 1908. He attended the public schools here and graduated from the inaugural class of the 1927 Ocean Springs Public School, now the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center. Others to receive diplomas in his May 31, 1928 graduation class were: Frank C. Beuhler (1909-1985), Seth McEwen (1909-1986), Sarah Stewart, and Leroy White. (*The Jackson County Times*, June 2, 1928, p. 3, c. 3)

Although two others stu- dents in the 1928 graduation class had the same scholastic average as Frank C. Beuhler, he was named Valedictorian of the class since he had a better atten-



Photographic Collection of Thomas C-S Wixon. Courtesy of Betty Clark Rodgers, archivist, Jackson County, Mississippi Chancery Court Archives, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

THEODORE BECHTEL (1863-1931)-was a native of Illinois who arrived at Ocean Springs in 1899, to work as a grafter and horticulturist. In 1904, he acquired about thirty acres of land along Holcomb Boulevard where he founded the Bechtel Pecan Nurseries and propagated the "Success", a paper shell pecan. Mr. Bechtel was active in civic, social and political affairs at Ocean Springs. He assisted in the development of Marshall Park in 1911 and was Ward II alderman from 1919 until 1925. Bechtel Boulevard and several subdivi- sion tracts in Section 29, T7S-R8W bear his name.

1963) and Schuyler Poitevent Jr. (1911-1978), won gold medals for their knowledge of American History and Current History. (*The Jackson County Times*, April 28, 1928, p. 2)

Theo Bechtel, Jr. carried on his father's work and was employed at Ingalls Shipyard at

Street and going south about 2900 feet. This tract was approximately 42.4 acres in area. (JXCO, Ms. Chancery Court Surveyors Record Bk. 1, pp. 247-248)

In the late 1960s, three smaller subdivisions were created within the Bechtel

Bechtel 2

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

MARRIAGE BOND.

The State of Mississippi, }
JACKSON COUNTY. } S. S.

Know All Men by these Presents:

That We, Peter E. Bechtel as principal, and Peter E. Sells
as security, both of the County of Jackson and State of Mississippi, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Mississippi,
in the penal sum of One Hundred Dollars, lawful money, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we and each of
us do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Witness our hands, and seals, this 18th day of May A. D., 1890

The Condition of this Obligation is: That whereas application has been made to the Clerk of the Circuit
Court of said County for a license for the marriage of Peter E. Bechtel
and Mary McManus

Now Therefore, if there shall be no lawful cause to obstruct the marriage for which said license is granted, then
this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

Signed, Sealed and delivered in the presence of

J. B. Gignanton } Peter E. Bechtel L.S.
J. B. Gignanton } P. E. Sells L.S.
Clerk Circuit Court.

Bechtel 3

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GENEALOGY COLLECTION

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

❖ STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, JACKSON COUNTY. ❖

To any Judge, Minister, Justice or other Officer Lawfully Authorized to Celebrate the Rites of Matrimony:

You are hereby Authorized to celebrate the **rites of MATRIMONY** between

pro Peter E. Bechtel AND Mary McManus

And you are hereby required to transmit to the undersign, Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County, or his successor in office, a **CERTIFICATE OF THE MARRIAGE** of said parties within six months after the celebration of the same, under the penalty in such cases provided.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this 18th day of May A. D. 1890.

W. M. Denny
Clerk Circuit Court.

By Virtue of a License from the Clerk of the Circuit Court, I have this day joined in the

❖ **HOLY STATE OF MATRIMONY** ❖

pro Peter E. Bechtel AND Mary McManus

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL, this 18th day of May A. D. 1890.

J. B. Wigginton J. P.

Pascagoula Public Library
Genealogy & Local History Dept.
Bechtel Family

Bechtel 4

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Bechtel Family
Jackson County, Mississippi

Theodore Bechtel, Sr. was in the nursery business at Staunton, Illinois with his brother, A. R. Bechtel. During this time they introduced Bechtel's Double Flowering Crabapple at the Columbian Exposition in 1892. This is an extremely hardy, sweet scented, flowering shrub.

In January 1899, responding to an advertisement for an experienced nurseryman, he came to Ocean Springs and was employed by the Stuart Pecan Nursery until they went out of business. He next was employed by Mrs. Martha L. Holcomb who had a home and real estate holdings in this area. Mr. Thomas Holcomb, who had died a short time earlier, was well regarded in literary circles for his translation of the Frithjof Saga from Norwegian to English.

Mr. Bechtel purchased property from Mrs. Holcomb and started a pecan nursery and orchard. Mrs. Holcomb apparently abhorred the idea of a responsible bachelor being unattached so she invited Miss Jessica White to come down from Chicago for an extended winter visit. Her hopes were fulfilled and they were married. Mrs. Holcomb passed away shortly after. Two years later Theodore Bechtel, Jr. was born.

Mr. Bechtel introduced the Success pecan and propagated it along with other varieties developed in this area. The Bechtels were active in the Civic Federation, a group interested in local improvements. One of its notable accomplishments was getting a stock law clearing cattle off the streets of Ocean Springs. The Bechtels were family oriented, assisting in the rearing of four nephews and a niece.

Theodore Bechtel, Sr. died in 1931. Mrs. Bechtel died in 1946.

Theodore Bechtel, Jr. is married to the former Florence Ogden of New Orleans, Louisiana. They have three children: Herbert, Simon and Dolores Cervi and four grandchildren.